IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION

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Case:	**3-26-22**
Serial No.:	**09/895,948**
Filing Date:	**June 29, 2001**
Examiner:	**N. Curs**
Title:	**Advanced Signaling System For Switching And Control In Integrated Optical Networks**

Group Art Unit: 2613

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
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SIR:

Response to Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief (37 CFR 41.37)

SIR:

In response to the Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief, dated December 30, 2008, in the above referenced matter, The Applicants herewith submit a corrected Summary of the Claimed Subject Matter section of the previously filed Appeal Brief herein, as required by the Notice.

Should any question or problem arise in connection with this submission, a phone call to Applicants' undersigned attorney at 908 582-5294 will be appreciated.

In the event of non-payment or improper payment of a required fee, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or to credit **Deposit Account No. 12-2325** as required to correct the error.

Respectfully,

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Date: March 2, 2009

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop **APPEAL BRIEF-PATENTS**, Director of the US Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on **March 2, 2009.**

John Ligon

ATTACHMENT

Corrected "Summary Of Claimed Subject Matter"
For Appeal Brief In Application No. 09/895,948

SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The invention claimed here is directed to an enhanced signaling system that operates to provide a signaling platform that is independent of the electronic and optical switching and transmission systems interconnected with an integrated optical network. In particular, the enhanced signaling system of the invention provides a signaling mechanism that allows any device interfaced to the optical network to be handled without the need to use the legacy signaling techniques of that device. A key feature of the invention is that of the signaling method and apparatus of the invention operating to process signaling information from various external signaling networks or devices, including networks/devices operating with electronic signaling, independently of the legacy signaling techniques of the external network or device. Thus the signaling can be accomplished by way of optical interfaces that couple directly to the respective optical components rather than having signaling being accomplished through electrical connections as occurs in the prior art.

Independent apparatus claims 1, 11 and 19 are directed to particular embodiments of the enhanced signaling system of the invention. Claim 1 is directed to a signaling apparatus in an integrated optical network comprising (1) a plurality of electrical signaling interfaces for receiving requests from external signaling networks, (2) a processing module for processing the requests from the external signaling networks, and (3) an optical signaling interface for coupling to optical components in an integrated optical network and operable to transmit processed requests from the processing module for assignment of optical channels for the optical components. Claim 1 further includes a limitation directed to the feature of the invention whereby signaling information from various external signaling networks or devices is processed independently of the legacy signaling techniques of the external network or device, thereby

permitting the signaling to be accomplished by way of optical interfaces that couple directly to respective optical components.

Independent apparatus claim 11 includes substantially comparable limitations to those of claim 1, except that the processing module of claim 1 is further defined in terms of (1) a signaling and call control module, (2) a signaling and endpoint applications module, and (3) a network management and provisioning module.

Independent apparatus claim 19 includes substantially comparable limitations to those of claim 1with additional limitations directed to an optical service node coupled to the optical signaling interface and including (1) an optical cross connect and (2) and optical add/drop multiplexer.

Independent method claim 16 is directed to steps for carrying out the process of the enhanced signaling system of the invention including (1) receiving requests from external signaling networks at an electrical signaling interface, (2) processing the requests from the external signaling network and (3) transmitting the processed requests via an optical signaling interface that couples to optical components in an integrated optical network for assignment of optical channels. Claim 16 further includes a limitation directed to the feature of the invention whereby signaling information from various external signaling networks or devices is processed independently of the legacy signaling techniques of the external network or device, thereby permitting the signaling to be accomplished by way of optical interfaces that couple directly to respective optical components.

The features of the claims as set forth above are fully described in the specification at page 5, line 6 through page 10, line 12. The functionality of the enhanced signaling system of the invention is described in further detail at page 12, line 5 through page 14, line 24 of the

specification. The unique feature of the invention respecting the processing of signaling information independently of legacy signaling techniques is particularly described at page 6, lines 11-23 and page 14, lines 6-24.